AMENDMENTS to the CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for preparing and presenting entitled offerings to prospective brokers, ~~said~~ the prospective brokers including buyers and bidders, and for collecting bids from ~~said~~ the prospective buyers, bidders and brokers in response to ~~said~~ the offerings, ~~said~~ the method comprising:

establishing one or more broker entitlement schema in an offering and bid collection computer system, ~~said~~ the broker entitlement schema being based on a contractual arrangement between one or more brokers, one or more traders, and manufacturer or service provider; each broker entitlement schema containing one or more entitlement definitions indicating contractually allowable items which may be offered for sale to each broker by ~~said~~ the trader;

transmitting by ~~said~~ the offering and bid collection computer system a first list of available items offered for sale by ~~said~~ the manufacturer or service provider from ~~said~~ the manufacturer or service supplier to a trader;

preparing by ~~said~~ the offering and bid collection computer system one or more entitled offerings through filtering ~~said~~ the first list of available items according to ~~said~~ the broker entitlement schema such that ~~said~~ the prepared entitled offerings include only information for one or more items to which each broker is allowed to purchase as defined by each broker's associated broker entitlement schema; and

subsequent to ~~said~~ the preparation of entitled offerings but prior to receiving any bids to purchase any offered items, presenting via a user interface of a computer network terminal or of a computer console ~~said~~ the entitled offerings to one or more prospective brokers such that each broker may review entitled offerings containing information regarding items being offered for sale on which the broker is entitled to bid, but are not allowed to view information regarding items to which each broker is not entitled to purchase.

2. (currently amended) The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein ~~said step of~~ the providing of a broker entitlement profile with entitlement definitions comprises providing an item category parameter within ~~said~~ the entitlement definitions.

3. (currently amended) The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the ~~said step of~~ providing of a broker entitlement profile with entitlement definitions comprises providing a broker location parameter within ~~said~~ the entitlement definitions.

4. (currently amended) The method as set forth in Claim 2 wherein the ~~said step of~~ preparing of one or more entitled offerings comprises removing items from ~~said~~ the available items list which are unmatched by a category parameter within a broker entitlement definition to produce a minimized list of items for which a broker is entitled to receive offerings.

5. (currently amended) The method as set forth in Claim 3 wherein the ~~said step of~~ preparing of one or more entitled offers comprises removing items from ~~said~~ the available items list which are unmatched by a broker location parameter within a broker entitlement definition to produce a minimized list of items for which a broker is entitled to receive offerings.

6. (currently amended) The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the ~~said step of~~ presenting via a computer user interface ~~said~~ the entitled offerings to one or more brokers comprises presenting ~~said~~ the entitled offerings via a web browser user interface.

7. (currently amended) The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the ~~said step of~~ receiving of one or more bids from ~~said~~ the prospective brokers via a computer network subsequent to the ~~said step of~~ presenting ~~said~~ the entitled offerings ~~offereings~~ to ~~said~~ the brokers.

8. (currently amended) The method as set forth in Claim 7 wherein the step of receiving one or more bids comprises receiving bids via a computer network from a web browser system.

9. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage memory medium for preparing and presenting entitled offerings to prospective brokers, said the prospective brokers including buyers and bidders, and for collecting bids from said the prospective buyers and brokers in response to said the entitled offerings in a computer network server, said computer program code comprising:

a computer-readable storage memory medium suitable for encoding computer program code; and one or more computer programs encoded by said the computer-readable medium, when executed causing a computer network server to:

    transmit from a manufacturer or service provider to a trader a first list of items available for purchase from said the manufacturer or service provider;

    access at least one broker entitlement schema in a computer-readable record for one or more brokers, each broker entitlement schema containing one or more entitlement definitions indicating allowable items for which a broker may receive offers for items to purchase from said the manufacturer or service provider according to a contractual agreement;

    prepare one or more entitled offerings through filtering said the first list of items against said the broker entitlement schema such that each resulting entitled offering only includes items for which each broker is allowed to receive offers to purchase, and excludes information regarding items to which each broker is not entitled to purchase, as defined by the prospective broker's entitlement definitions; and

    subsequent to said step of the preparing entitled offers but prior to receipt of any bids from said the brokers to purchase said the available items, present via a computer user interface said the entitled offerings to one or more brokers such that each broker may review lists containing only items available for purchase from said the manufacturer or services on which the broker is entitled to bid.

10. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage memory medium as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said the program code for accessing which accesses a broker entitlement schema with entitlement definitions comprises computer program code for providing which, when executed by a processor, provides an item category parameter within said the entitlement definitions.

11. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage memory medium as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said the program code for accessing which accesses a broker profile with entitlement definitions comprises program code for providing which, when executed by a processor, provides a broker location parameter within said the entitlement definitions.

12. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage memory ~~medium~~ as set forth in Claim 10 wherein ~~said~~ the program code ~~for preparing~~ which prepares one or more entitled offerings comprises program code ~~for removing~~ which, when executed by a processor, removes items from ~~said~~ the first items list which are unmatched by a category parameter within a broker entitlement definition to produce a minimized list of items for which a broker is entitled to receive offerings.

13. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage memory ~~medium~~ as set forth in Claim 11 wherein ~~said~~ the program code ~~for preparing~~ which prepares one or more entitled offerings comprises program code ~~for removing~~ which, when executed by a processor, removes items from ~~said~~ the first items list which are unmatched by a broker location parameter within a broker entitlement definition to produce a minimized list of items for which a broker is entitled to receive offerings.

14. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage memory ~~medium~~ as set forth in Claim 9 wherein ~~said~~ the program code ~~for presenting~~ which presents via a computer user interface ~~said~~ the entitled offerings to one or more brokers comprises program code ~~for presenting~~ which, when executed by a processor, presents ~~said~~ the entitled offerings via a web browser user interface.

15. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage memory ~~medium~~ as set forth in Claim 9 further comprising program code ~~for receiving~~ which receives one or more bids from ~~said~~ the prospective brokers via a computer network subsequent to ~~said step of~~ the presenting of ~~said~~ the entitled offerings.

16. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage memory ~~medium~~ as set forth in Claim 15 wherein ~~said~~ the program code ~~for receiving~~ which receives one or more bids comprises program code ~~for receiving~~ which, when executed by a processor, receives bids via a computer network from a web browser system.

17. (currently amended) An offering system in a computer network for preparing and presenting entitled offerings to brokers, buyers and bidders, hereinafter collectively referred to as "brokers", ~~said~~ the computer network enabling communications between ~~said~~ the offering system and broker consoles, ~~said~~ the offering system comprising:

a database disposed in a computer system containing one or more broker entitlement schema,
      each broker entitlement schema containing entitlement definitions according to a
      contractual relations between a manufacturer or service provider and a broker regarding
      items to which the broker is entitled to receive offers for purchase, ~~said~~ the database
      accessible and queriable by network application servers;

an entitled offering preparation server computing system [[for]] preparing entitled offerings
      through filtering lists of available items against broker entitlement definitions to produce
      entitled offerings including only items to which a broker is entitled to bid and excluding
      items to which a broker is not entitled to bid, and for storing entitled sales offerings in
      ~~said~~ the database; and

a network application server computing system [[for]] providing ~~said~~ the entitled offerings to
      broker console computers, ~~said~~ the providing of entitled offerings being performed
      subsequent to preparation of the entitled offerings but prior to receipt of a bid from ~~said~~
      the broker.

18. (currently amended) The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein ~~said~~ the network application server is an Internet server.

19. (currently amended) The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein ~~said~~ the network application server is a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP) server.

20. (currently amended) The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein ~~said~~ the network application server is a secure Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTPS) server.

21. (currently amended) The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein ~~said~~ the network application server is adapted for communications with broker console computers which are web browser devices.

22. (currently amended) The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein ~~said~~ the entitled sales offering preparation server is adapted to filter lists of available items by broker entitlement definitions including a broker location parameter.

23. (currently amended) The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein ~~said~~ the entitled sales offering preparation server is adapted to filter lists of available items by broker entitlement definitions including an item category parameter.